

SPECIAL EDITION

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

New Choctaw offering seminary courses

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

While many think of Mississippi as being homogenized, it is actually home to many different cultures. Mississippi Baptists worship in nine different languages each Sunday. Sadly, leaders of these culturally diverse churches often desire to pastor a church but don't have the needed theological education.

New Choctaw Association in Philadelphia saw the need for training and began a seminary extension center for pastors, ministers, and lay leaders. The center is designed to equip church leaders that they might strengthen the Native American churches of the association.

"We offered courses in systematic theology, and had seven students enrolled. Out of that group of seven, we had one pastor, three licensed ministers, one deacon, and two laymen," said Lucille Billie, who helped coordinate the seminary extension work.

The students were from several different churches, including Pearl River, Pine Bluff, and Calvary. Chris Vowell, interim pastor at Grace Church in Philadelphia, taught the classes. The classes run from nine to twelve weeks, with each class period lasting three hours.

There are unique challenges in working with a Choctaw group, according to Billie. "What we found is that sometimes students aren't comfortable taking a test on their class work. I want to talk to Chris, to see if I might be able to rephrase the test questions in Choctaw so that the students might understand better. We might be able to do that orally, rather than just on the paper."

Arthur Ben, associational missions director for New Choctaw, said, "I made a proposal to Mississippi Baptists two years ago to begin this work. We began working toward having the classes in 2002 and



MINISTERING TO CHOCTAWS — Margaret Lackey funds helped provide seminary extension classes to Choctaws in the New Choctaw Association. Shown, from left, are Arthur Ben, associational missions director; Mageline Truss, a member of Old Canyon Church and a student in the classes; and Lucille Billie, who coordinates the seminary extension work. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

were able to start last year. Lucille volunteered to carry on the work."

Billie publicized the class in the local newspaper and on the local cable access channel. She sent out fliers to the churches to raise awareness of what was being offered.

Ben kept bringing up the seminary extension idea and it was ultimately accepted. Billie said, "My husband, who is a licensed minister from Pine Bluff Church, and I talked about it and he said, 'I have always wanted to enroll in a seminary class, and this is a perfect way for me to do that.'"

Mageline Truss was one of the students for the systematic theology class. Truss is a member of Old Canyon Church. "I wanted to learn more about religion," she said. "I didn't know everything, but I wanted to. I teach children in Sunday School, so it was very helpful for me. I know better now what to teach the kids," she said.

The association plans to offer a New Testament survey class. The association also has a jail ministry, hospital ministry, nursing home ministry, and emergency food bank. "We are trying to start a TV ministry," said Ben. "We've been given five minutes for a devotional on Channel 5 here on the reservation. The local reservation newspaper also provides space for a written devotional."

"We are so thankful that Mississippi Baptists provided scholarships for the students," Billie said. "The students paid for the registration, but the textbooks and workbooks are paid for by Mississippi Baptists. If a student can't pay, we don't ask them to pay, and the association helps out."

The Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering supplies funds for the seminary extension work in New Choctaw Association.

State Mission Offering funds even provided money for a piano instructor to train young people to fill sorely-needed pianist positions in Choctaw churches, Billie said. "It provided the foundation for (the piano instructor). He began with the basics, graduated with a degree in music, went to Delta State University in Cleveland, and is now a band director here," she said.



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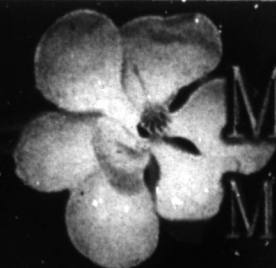
Pray for...

...unchurched Mississippians.
Nearly 50% of Mississippi is unchurched.

...children to grow in the
nurture of the Word.
Each year 3000 children attend
Camp Garaywa and Central Hills.

...relief for hurting people.
Relief for disaster victims and those suffering
from life crises opens evangelism doors.

...more volunteer missionaries.
Mississippians are answering the call as Great
Commissionaries but more are needed.



Mississippi Baptist State Missions

Margaret Lackey Offering

STATE MISSIONS GOAL: 1.65 MILLION

EVANGELISM	\$165,000	CHURCH PLANTING	\$400,000
LANGUAGE/ETHNIC	\$20,000		
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	\$25,000	RETREAT MINISTRIES	\$650,000
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE MINISTRY	\$10,000	CAMP GARAYWA	\$325,000
LITERACY	\$10,000	CENTRAL HILLS	\$325,000
ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS	\$100,000		
MISSIONS MOBILIZATION	\$340,000	HUMAN NEEDS	\$95,000
VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE	\$340,000	DISASTER RELIEF	\$50,000
		PASTORAL BENEVOLENCE	\$30,000
		CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S JOB CORPS	\$15,000

Thailand trip results in rewards

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

A group of 21 students and adults under the sponsorship of First Church, Richland, and the Mission Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), served in Thailand June 23-July 6. For both the missionaries and the Thai people, the trip was an unforgettable experience.

There were two ministry groups participating in the trip — those working with college students and those working with high school students, according to Lee Yancey, consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission and college coordinator for the trip.

Ten individuals worked with college-age Thai, and 11 worked with high schoolers. When the group arrived, they learned that Thai high schools did not want minors working in the high schools, so the three high school students on the trip worked instead with



THAILAND TEAM — This group of 21 adults and students ministered in Chaing Rai, Thailand, June 23-July 26. The trip was made possible in part by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. (Special to The Baptist Record)

as our English teaching tool. On our last Friday and Saturday there, we were able to have an English camp there at the Lighthouse Language Center, with the students actually staying there at the Center. All day Saturday, we had activities for the Thai students, including skits, activities, praise and worship. The Bible story we chose to share

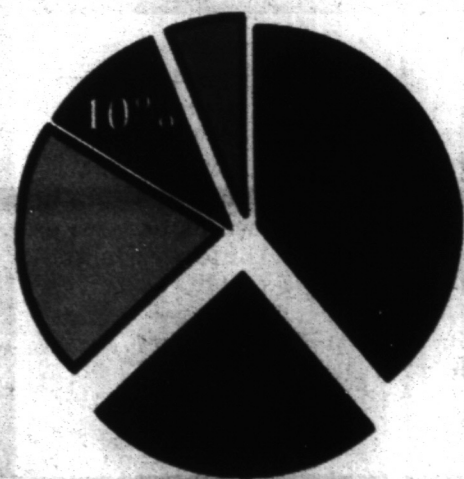
hear the Gospel, but they often incorporate those teachings into their own beliefs, which is accepted in their culture. If they were to accept Christ, then they would be cut off from their families."

Mandy Purvis, a member of First Church, Florence, and an employee of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Human Resource Office, also worked with college students. In an e-mail testimony, Purvis wrote: "It was awesome to see the Lord working in such a dark place. We were allowed to sing praise songs in a college classroom."

"There were very few Christians in the two colleges we visited," Purvis continued. "I still am in awe of each of them. They were constantly reading their Bibles every time we saw them and they were so dedicated to sharing their faith with their friends."

Missions opportunities such as these are made possible in part through funds given to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering each year.

For more information about other opportunities, contact Ken Rhodes, director of the Mission Mobilization Department of the MBCB, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS, 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3398 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 239. E-mail: krhodes@mbcb.org.



EVANGELISM - 10%
\$165,000

LANGUAGE/ETHNIC - \$20,000

CRIMINAL JUSTICE - \$25,000

INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE MINISTRY - \$10,000

LITERACY - \$10,000

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION PROJECTS - \$100,000

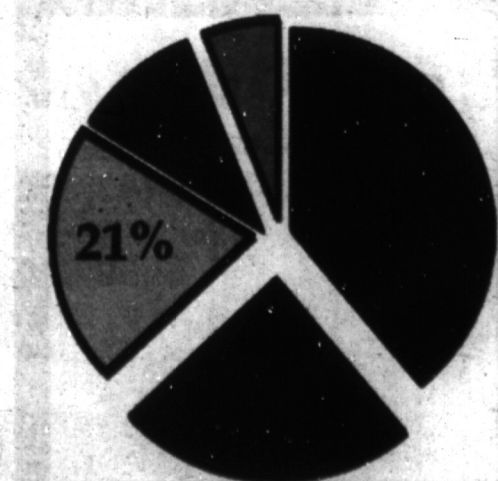
the college students. Aubry Martin, minister of education at First Church, Richland, coordinated the trip and the high school work.

One purpose of the trip was to teach English as a second language. One of the vehicles used by the missionaries among the high school and college students is Scrabble tournaments.

The prime outreach venue in Chiang Rai, Thailand, where the group did most of their work, is the Lighthouse Language Center. The group conducted the Scrabble tournaments on campuses for two nights, having the finals at Lighthouse. During the tournament, the top high schools were pitted against each other, as were the top colleges.

"All of the Thai students want to learn English," said Yancey, "basically because English is their ticket to high salaries and success."

"We also wanted to share the Gospel in an appropriate way," Yancey continued, "and we were able to use the Bible



MISSIONS
MOBILIZATION - 21%
\$340,000

VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE
\$340,000



ASSOCIATION CHURCH STATE MISSION

BELOW \$25,000

MID-DELTA	FBC BOYLE	1,737.57
NESHOBA	PINE GROVE	1,504.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	STURGIS	945.73
NORTHWEST	STRAYHORN	800.00
ITAWAMBA	POPLAR SPRINGS	800.00
CHOCTAW	PROVIDENCE	685.00
NESHOBA	HOPE	580.00
AT LARGE	IGLESIA EL BUEN PASTOR	520.00
NORTH DELTA	BELEN	500.36
CLARKE	FBC STONEWALL	486.00

\$25,000 - \$39,999

SCOTT	OAK GROVE	1,500.00
YAZOO	TINSLEY	1,066.00
WEBSTER	MT VERNON	932.31
LAUDERDALE	SALEM	750.00
GREENE	EAST SALEM	750.00
PEARL RIVER	PARKVIEW	744.57
CALHOUN	OLDTOWN	700.00
LAMAR	AUTUMN RIDGE	670.00
NESHOBA	SPRING CREEK	651.20
CHOCTAW	CONCORD	563.00

\$40,000 - \$49,999

CLARKE	PINE HILL	1,651.50
WEBSTER	NEW HOPE	1,362.00
LAFAYETTE	NEW ELBERTON	1,300.00
METRO	CALVARY CANTON	1,040.00
SCOTT	LIBERTY	1,000.00
NEWTON	LIBERTY	850.00
GULF COAST	CROSSROAD	827.00
BENTON-TIPPAH	CHALYBEATE	825.00
NORTH CENTRAL	SPRING HILL	800.00
LAUDERDALE	LIBERTY	750.56

\$55,000 - \$74,999

CARROLL	LIBERTY	1,757.00
UNION CO	CENTER	1,455.00
KEMPER	BLACKWATER	1,416.40
UNION	WILSON CHURCH	1,362.00
MONTGOMERY	WATLAND	1,251.00
SHARKEY-ISSAQ	VALLEY PARK	1,131.00
PERRY	WICE	1,101.03
PEARL RIVER	WHITE SAND	1,103.19
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	NEW HOPE, STARKVILLE	1,001.47
LAFAYETTE	TAYLOR	902.69

\$75,000 - \$99,999

COV-JEFF DAVIS	PHALTI	2,153.00
CALHOUN	SHILOH	2,130.00
LEAKE	CORINTH	2,089.25
LAWRENCE	OLD SILVER CREEK	1,766.00
SIMPSON	OAK GROVE	1,666.00
NESHOBA	OLD PEARL VALLEY	1,548.40
RANKIN	UNION	1,445.00
CLARKE	OAK GROVE	1,332.25
NOXUBEE	SHUQUALAK	1,322.00
NORTH CENTRAL	FBC SUMNER	1,200.00

Mississippi, Are You?

State Missions

Sylvarena quintuples offering



MISSIONS-MINDED CHURCH — Sylvarena Church, Smith County, more than quintupled their Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering from 2002 to 2003. Among the staffers at the church are (from left) Waygon Sanders, youth minister; Mike Thompson, pastor; and Charles James, chairman of deacons. Sanders is sporting pink hair because of an attendance goal exceeded by the youth during a recent revival. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

ASSOCIATION CHURCH STATE MISSION

\$100,000 - \$149,999

COPIAH	SHADY GROVE	3,150.17
WEBSTER	TOMNOLEN	3,035.00
NESHOBA	COUNTY LINE	2,853.41
HUMPHREYS	BEULAH	2,787.86
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	BORDER SPRINGS	2,010.00
LEE	BISSELL	1,884.19
MARSHALL	BETHANY	1,880.00
MID-DELTA	FBC ITTA BENA	1,850.00
CALHOUN	BETHANY	1,738.00
MISSISSIPPI	GILLSBURG	1,716.00

\$150,000 - \$199,999

PRENTISS	MT OLIVE	7,913.00
UNION CO	BETHEL	4,909.42
LINCOLN	FRIENDSHIP	4,118.52
COPIAH	PILGRIMS REST	3,578.42
JASPER	EDON	3,436.00
UNION CO	PLEASANT RIDGE	3,254.50
NORTH DELTA	FBC TUNICA	2,966.00
WALTHALL	ENON	2,542.00
PIKE	FRIENDSHIP	2,535.10
ALCORN	WEST CORINTH	2,421.00

\$250,000 - \$499,999

LAUDERDALE	NEW HOPE	9,092.88
JASPER	BAY SPRINGS	7,565.00
NORTH DELTA	CLARKSDALE	5,929.75
MARSHALL	SLAYDEN	5,505.58
MISSISSIPPI	LIBERTY	5,171.12
SMITH	SYLVARENA	4,831.00
LAUDERDALE	CENTRAL	4,044.15
SCOTT	FBC MORTON	3,692.48
PANOLA	FBC SARDIS	3,690.00
COV-JEFF DAVIS	PRENTISS	3,330.50

\$500,000 - \$999,999

NESHOBA	FBC PHILADELPHIA	9,350.00
COPIAH	FBC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	7,665.00
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	FBC WEST POINT	5,583.97
YAZOO	FBC YAZOO CITY	5,570.00
LEE	FBC SALTILLO	5,476.00
LAUDERDALE	FIFTEENTH AVENUE	5,293.38
GEORGE	FBC LUCEDALE	5,172.63
LAMAR	FBC PURVIS	5,137.56
PEARL RIVER	FBC PICAYUNE	5,125.62
GOLDEN TRIANGLE	CALVARY STARKVILLE	5,053.50

\$1,000,000 AND UP

METRO	FBC JACKSON	45,739.91
METRO	BROADMOOR	33,390.33
PONTOTOC	FBC PONTOTOC	21,331.00
METRO	FBC MADISON	18,558.22
GULF COAST	MICHAEL MEMORIAL	18,411.48
METRO	FBC CLINTON	16,154.51
ATTALA	FBC MOSCUSKO	13,219.25
GULF COAST	FBC GULFPORT	12,125.97
LINCOLN	FBC BROOKHAVEN	12,083.42
LEE	HARRISBURG	10,945.56

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Sylvarena Church sits pristinely on Highway 18 midway between Raleigh and Bay Springs, in the pasturelands of Smith County. The church was destroyed by a tornado in 1992, but was subsequently rebuilt.

God continues to bless, as witnessed by the extraordinary giving spirit of the church's people. According to Pastor Mike

Thomas, the church averaged 117 people in Sunday School in July. Thomas has been pastor for three months.

In 2002, the church gave \$885 to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. In 2003, the church gave an astonishing \$4831 — over five times the amount of the previous year.

"I think our state missions offering was high because of some of the messages we heard in the interim," said Charles James, chairman of deacons. "We learned what the money went for. Traditionally, Sylvarena has been pretty gen-

erous toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We might've been a little slack toward the state mission offering, but finding out what the offering goes for was part of why the offering increased."

When asked how he would communicate the need to another church for giving a generous state mission offering, Thomas said, "It would just be a matter of education, showing the need for this particular offering. I'd

Cooperative Program, three percent goes to the Smith County Association, and 3.5% to the Baptist Childrens Village — a total of 24.5% of undesignated funds.

"We set goals for our missions offerings," said James. "The deacons make a recommendation to the church family, and they either accept or reject it. The only time it's ever been rejected is when the people don't think it's high enough."

Frank Harmon, director of the Church-Relations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, served as interim pastor prior to Thomas' arrival.

"We just simply promoted the offering," said Harmon. "We told the people what the money was used for, did the presentation

HUMAN NEEDS

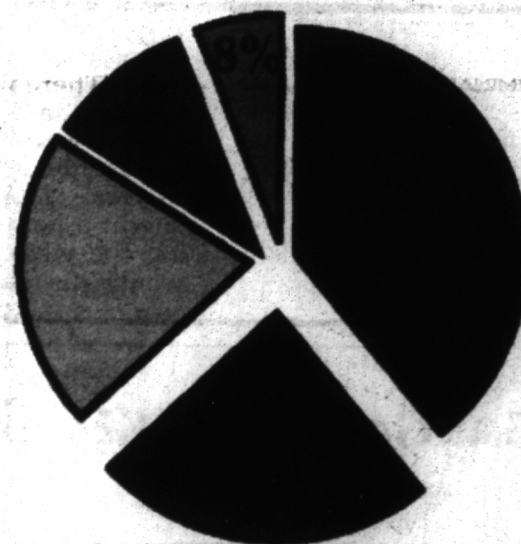
8%

\$95,000

DISASTER RELIEF
\$50,000

PASTORAL
BENEVOLENCE
\$30,000

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S
JOB CORPS \$15,000



talk about how the money helps at Camp Garaywa and Central Hills. I'd tell them about state missions in general."

The church is certainly missions minded. Eighteen percent of the church's budget is given to the

for the entire church, and kept it before the people for several weeks. People got excited about what was happening in Mississippi. I explained to them what part of that money was coming into my office, and how it was being used."

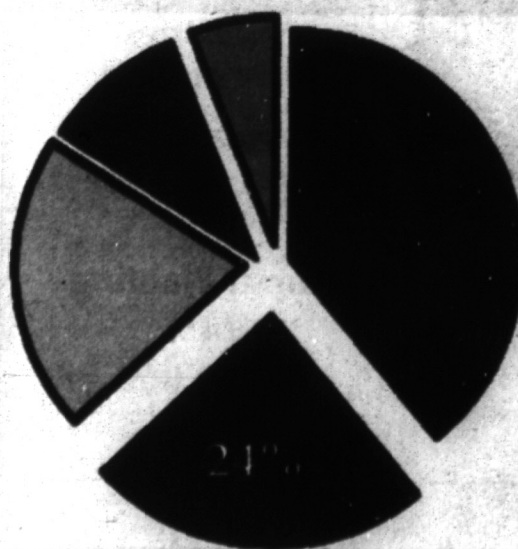
One service Harmon's office offers is pastoral benevolence when churches and pastors find themselves in extreme need. "Providing financial relief and counseling during these times of crisis is love in action. I also told them how that money was being used around the state in other areas, even to help in missions mobilization work, assisting volunteers in short-term missions. That makes it personal," Harmon said.

He said that during this same period, the church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering went from about \$10,000 to over \$20,000. "The church is just excited about missions," Harmon said.

CHURCH PLANTING -

24%

\$400,000



You Willing?



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Central Hills Retreat: kindling commitment

By Frank Lay
Correspondent

God is at work among the pine trees of Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, as boys from all over Mississippi participate each summer in Royal Ambassadors (RA) camp.

They take part in different types of activities, including crafts, canoeing, riflery, rope courses, ham radio, and swimming. They have the opportunity to study the Bible and attend worship services each day. In addition, they learn about missions from "real live missionaries."

Most of all, Central Hills is a place where many have the opportunity to make life-changing commitments to Jesus Christ.

Essential to the success of RA camp is the large number of college students who serve as counselors and staffers each summer. Each counselor is assigned to a group of boys known as a chapter.

Chris Cauthen has been working at Central Hills for several summers. This year he is serving as Program Assistant Director for the summer staff. In describing those who are serving as counselors in 2004, Chris said, "I have never seen a group of counselors as deeply committed to their campers as the ones we have now. They pray for each camper by name every day." Kyle Williams, after serving two years as a counselor, is this year's Food Services Coordinator.

Rob Hilbun has been a Christian since he was nine years old. His pastor Jerry Mixon, now Stewardship Director for the Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board, led him to the Lord and baptized him at the Rocky Creek Church in Lucedale.

Rob, now age 19, is serving as a counselor at Central Hills this summer. Rob describes his work as being like a big brother to the campers. He leads them in cabin devotionals each evening, puts them to bed each night, and wakes them up each morning. He spends most of his waking hours with his boys each day. Rob said that several of his campers had already approached him wanting to know how to become a Christian.

Four members of his chapter had accepted Christ prior to the evangelistic service.

One of the highlights of any RA camp is the campfire service held on Thursday evening. The staffers and counselors lead in a time of worship and praise. There are testimonies, and then the camp pastor brings a brief evangelistic message and gives an invitation. Many of the campers make professions of faith and rededications of life, or surrender to Christian service during the camp fire service. Dale Little, who taught a ham radio class during the week, had the joy of seeing his grandson come to

Christ. Another counselor, with tears in his eyes, said, "Every member of my chapter went forward during the invitation."

Following the campfire service, the counselors lead those who made decisions to the chapel so that they can share with each camper individually. They put the information they receive on a decision card that will be forwarded to the camper's home church. It is interesting that many of the counselors themselves trusted in Christ while attending RA camp. Others

testify that they first received their call to ministry during RA Camp at Central Hills.

Thanks to the support of Mississippi Baptists through the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program, along with the capable leadership of Central Hills Manager Jim Ray and his management team, God is continuing to work with young people among the pine trees at Central Hills Retreat.

Lay is a retired pastor and resident of Morton.



HIGH DIVE — A Royal Ambassador (RA) camper at Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko takes a dive off the high board to cool off from the Mississippi summer heat. Central Hills, which is supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, hosts a number of RA camps and other events during the busy summer season. (BR photo by Frank Lay)

2004 MARGARET LACKEY BUDGET

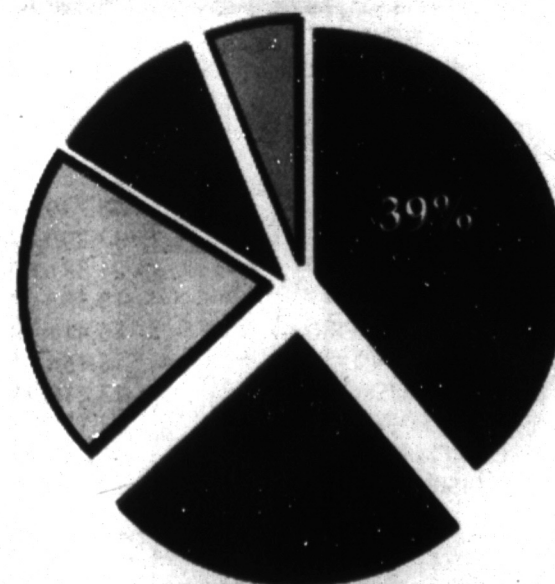
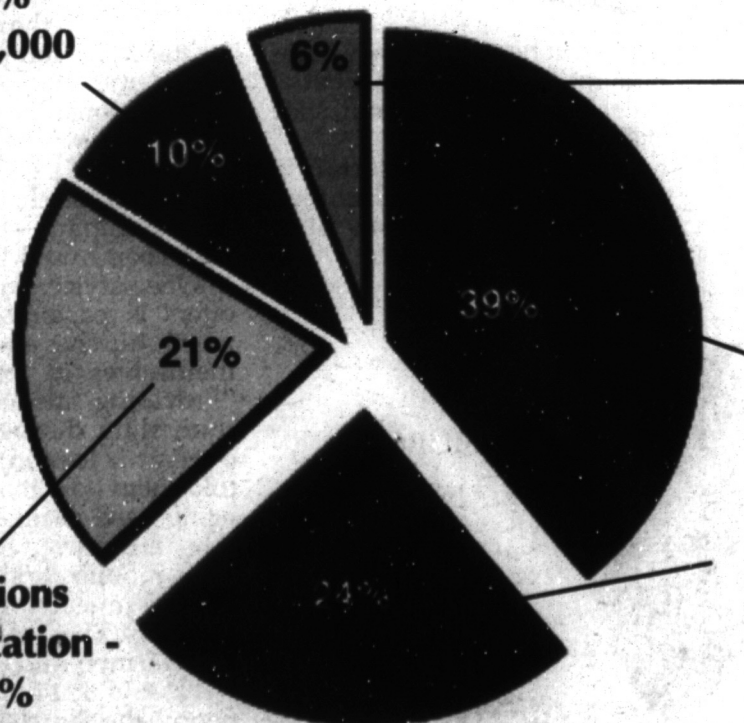
Evangelism -
10%
\$165,000

Human Needs -
6%
\$95,000

Retreat Ministries -
39%
\$650,000

Church Planting -
24%
\$400,000

Missions Mobilization -
21%



RETREAT MINISTRIES -
39%
\$650,000

CAMP GARAYWA
\$325,000

CENTRAL HILLS
\$325,000

To learn more about Margaret Lackey State Missions visit us on the web at www.mbc.org

OBITUARIES

Danny Purser, 47, Philadelphia, died July 24 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson. Services were held July 26 at McClain-Hays Funeral Home with burial following in Pearl Hill Cemetery, Leake County.

A native of Wayside, Purser served as a Baptist minister for 26 years. He held a degree from Covington Theological Seminary, Chattanooga, Tenn., and was currently serving as pastor of Longino Church, Philadelphia. He also pastored McDonald Church, Lena; Peeler Memorial Church, Kosciusko; Coldwater Church, Philadelphia; Mt. Nebo Church, Collinsville; and Liberty Church, Noxapater.

Survivors include his wife Kathy Purser; three sisters, Margaret Ann Haston, Virginia Purser, and Tera Fay Kiester; two brothers, Paul Purser and Rufus Purser; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Charles Ray Allen, 61, died July 11 at BMH, Oxford. The funeral service was held at First

Church, Vardaman, July 13 at 2 p.m. with burial in Hillcrest Cemetery, Vardaman.

Allen was currently serving as director of music at First Church, Vardaman, and was a retired teacher with 30 years service at Baldwin High School, Baldwin, Fla. He attended East MS Community College and MS State University. He also served as director of music at First Church, Baldwin.

Survivors include his wife Pat; brother, Terry Allen; sister, Kathryn Allen Sanderson; niece, Kimberly Sanderson; three nephews, Mark Allen Sanderson, Eric Burton Allen, and Michael Tanner Allen; and one great nephew, Cade Burton Allen.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Advertisement

Mississippi Baptist Minister to Host

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 10, 2005, join your Spiritual Director, Baptist Minister Rev. Billy Williams on this 15-day vacation including a 7-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a 7-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Devotions will be made available daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Rev. Williams, now retired, served as a Baptist Minister for 45 years. For 23 years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gautier, MS. He and his wife Rebecca have cruised Alaska's inside passage before. They look forward to returning as hosts for our Baptist group visiting the land of the midnight sun during the year's longest daylight hours.

Your group will fly into Seattle for a night before a scenic motor coach drive to Vancouver where you'll board the five-star ms Zaandam.

Next travel through a wondrous maze of forested island and glacier carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.

After the cruise you'll start a six-night motor coach tour with daily escorted sightseeing visiting British Columbia; the Cascade Mountains; Washington; the Grand Coulee Dam; Lake Coeur d'Alene; Montana; Yellowstone (Old Faithful) and Grand Teton National Parks; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and in Utah: the Great Salt Lake, Mormon Tabernacle, and more. You'll fly home after a night in Salt Lake City. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$2330 (per person, double occupancy). Included is round trip airfare, port charges and taxes, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, the 7-day deluxe Alaska cruise, 7 nights in quality hotels, transfers, and baggage handling. \$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For information, reservations, brochure, and Rev. Williams' letter call:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

Providing carefree vacations since 1967!

JUST FOR THE RECORD

The 10th-12th grade of **First Church, Florence**, recently went to El Salvador and conducted Youth Crusades all over the country. There were over 120 professions of faith made in the public schools alone.

Luke Johnson was recently licensed to the ministry by Highland Church, Laurel. Pictured (from left) are Johnson and Jerry Chaddick, pastor.

First Church, McLaurin, hosted 12 World Changers from Texas, Alabama, and Georgia for the June 27 morning worship service and lunch. Bernie Kavitz, pastor from First Church, Collins, the group captain, was also welcomed. During the week, the group worked at the job site while church ladies packed lunches for them. Roy Moody is pastor.

Ethel Church, Ethel, will host The Providentials Quartet, Ruth, at their Fifth Sunday Sing August 29 at 6 p.m. A Love Offering will be received. Nursery will be provided. For more information, call (662) 674-5470.

First Church, Polkville, will hold a retirement reception honoring Maxwell Price, pastor, and his wife August 29 from 2-4 p.m.

Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, will present The Next Generation, Magee, August 29

MS Baptist Medical Center
Department of Pastoral Care
in conjunction with
International Critical Incident
Stress Foundation, Inc.
presents a two day seminar

**PASTORAL CRISIS
INTERVENTION CONFERENCE**

September 9-10, 2004
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

\$15.00 registration fee
Continental Breakfast &
Lunch will be provided

B.C. Rogers Student Center
Mississippi College
Clinton, Mississippi

Make checks payable to
Baptist Health Systems
and mail with your
registration form to:

Baptist Health Systems
c/o Pastoral Care Dept.
1225 N. State Street
Jackson, MS 39202

If you have questions call the
Pastoral Care Department
at 601-968-5146.

at 6 p.m. Jon Haimes is pastor.

East Louisville Church, Louisville, will host The Master & #8217s Quartet in concert at 1:30 p.m. on August 29. Admission is free, but a love offering will be received. The

public is invited. For more information, call (662) 773-3683. Keith Dendy is pastor.

The Riders will be in concert at **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, August 29 at 6 p.m. All are invited.



Luke Johnson & Jerry Chaddick, pastor



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HOMEcomings & REVIVALS

Clifton, Scott Association: Homecoming August 29; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will follow; Paul Smith, guest speaker.

Franklin Creek, Moss Point: Homecoming August 29; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner will follow; afternoon singing, 1 p.m.; Greg Clark, speaker.

Woodville, Woodville: Evangelistic Revival September 26-30; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Wed. supper at 6 p.m.; David Sheppard, Laurel, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, worship; for more information, call (601) 888-3613.

Heuck's Brookhaven: Retreat, Revival September 26-29; 7 p.m. nightly; Wed., 11 a.m., senior luncheon and service; Mack Amis, First, McComb, guest preacher; James Beasley, First, Crystal Springs, guest music director.

Mt. Pisgah, Carrollton: Revival August 29-September 1; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Lanny

Haley, Christ, Greenwood, guest speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, One Way Ministries; a love offering will be received; nursery provided.

Siloam, Magee: Homecoming August 29; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; message in song by the church family will follow; Andy Boles, Pine Grove, Magee, preaching; Beverly Roberts, music; James Garner, pastor.

New Providence, Carthage: Homecoming September 19; registration, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; Dax Summerhill, preaching; Smith Sanders, pastor; all are welcome.

Pilgrims Rest, Batesville: Revival and Homecoming; September 2-5; 7 p.m. nightly; Sunday, 11 a.m., a potluck dinner will be served, Southern Gospel Tones will follow; Jason Noel, evangelist; Joe Thompson, music evangelist.

Friendship East, Charleston: Homecoming September 12; Gospel Echoes, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m.; a covered dish luncheon will be served; afternoon singing will follow; J. G. Buster Thomas, pastor.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale: has called **William "Bill" Ellison Salley II** as minister of music.



Salley

Salley served Liberty Church, Thomasville, N.C., for the past four years as minister of music and youth. He has served Sunflower and Attala Associations, and Liberty Association, N.C. He attended Holmes Community College, Delta State University, and NOBTS.



Anderson

Liberty Hill Church, Pope, has called **Jay Anderson, Panola County** native, as pastor. He attended Tennessee Temple University, Chattanooga, Tenn., and currently attends Covington Theological Seminary, Rossville, Ga. Anderson comes from Crosspointe Community Church, Ringgold, Ga.

STAFF CHANGES

Steep Hollow Church, Poplarville, has called **Sue Beaver**, Pass Christian, as secretary effective August 1.

Eastside Church, Pearl, has called **Wayne Brown**, Houston, Texas, as minister of students/education. He is a graduate of Millsaps College and currently attends NOBTS.



Brown

Mike Thompson has accepted the call as pastor of Sylvarena Church, Smith County. Thompson comes from Glade Church, Jones County after 11 years of service. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Luther Rice Seminary.

Tate Church, Corinth, called **Gregg Thomas** as pastor effective July 25. He previously served at Parkway

Church, Houston. Thomas is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and Luther Rice Seminary.



Laufer

First Church, Mount Olive, called **Steven Laufer** as pastor effective February 2004.

Glendale Church, Leland, called **Dick Hill** as pastor effective August 15. Hill moves from Comer, Ga.



MISSISSIPPI
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MISSISSIPPI STAFF POSITIONS

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss., is currently seeking a church organist for Sunday morning and evening services. Please send resumes with references to personnel committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss., is currently seeking a part-time children's director. Send resumes to personnel ministry team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 N.

Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Vardaman, Miss., is looking for a minister of music and a part-time/full-time minister of students. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 173, Vardaman, MS 38878. Contact Dale Easley, pastor at (662) 682-7458.

FBC BUDE, MISS., IS A DYNAMIC and growing church in Franklin Association. We will be receiving resumes for the position of Minister of music/youth through

September 15, 2004. All those who prayerfully would like to submit a resume, mail to: FBC Bude search team, 235 Budge Baptist Road, NE, Bude, MS 39630.

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH, Laurel, Miss., with 150-200 in attendance. Seeking a full-time music combination: music/youth, music/education Director. Please send resumes to Jason Loper, Chairman, search committee, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 838 Reid Road, Laurel, MS 39443.

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A GROWING SOUTHERN BAPTIST church in middle Tennessee is prayerfully seeking a full-time minister of music and students. Please send resume to the attention of the personnel committee, Little Hope Baptist Church, 225 Little Hope Road, Clarksville, Tennessee 37043. Or email lhbc@bellsouth.net.

PARKVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH,

Alexandria, Louisiana: Pulpit supply; Interim Pastorate; and full-time Pastorate. Send resumes to pastor search committee, Parkview Baptist Church, 2101 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria, LA 71301.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Take Courage

1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:1-3, 12-16, 19

By Mo Baker

Recently our nation remembered the fifth anniversary of the Columbine school shootings in Colorado. Of all the stories that emerged from that fateful day in April, 1999, the one of Cassie Bernall is unforgettable. When confronted in the school cafeteria by the assassins, asking her if she were a Christian, Cassie courageously said, "Yes." Tragically, with no regard for life, fellow students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold brutally shot and killed Cassie before turning the guns on themselves. In the years that have passed, countless numbers of believers have been humbled and encouraged by the courage of Cassie Bernall to declare her allegiance to Jesus Christ, even in the face of death.

Believers live in a world that is becoming increasingly hostile to the Christian faith, much like the time

in which the Apostle Peter lived. Peter's audience was experiencing severe persecution and ridicule, and Peter's first epistle was written to give them encouragement as they faced suffering. Applying Peter's message to life can enable contemporary believers to face persecution with courage. Let's discover Peter's insights regarding taking courage for Christ.

I. BE READY TO DEFEND YOUR FAITH (1 PE 3:13-17).

Instead of placating his audience with thoughts that would make them feel good, Peter reminded his readers that although they would experience persecution, their suffering would be the pathway to God's blessing. While suffering itself is not a pleasurable occurrence, the heavenly reward awaiting faithful believers at the end of time is definitely a



Baker

blessing from God. Since believers are blessed by God when they suffer, Peter taught that they are not to fear what men can do to them; instead, believers should fear and revere God. Believers are to live acknowledging Christ's lordship in their lives. Christians are to be ready on all occasions to

share their faith. Every believer should be able to comprehend the essentials of the Christian faith and reasonably explain them to others, remembering to be humble. Peter concluded this section by exhorting Christians to suffer for doing good, not evil.

II. REMEMBER CHRIST'S EXAMPLE (1 PE 4:1-3).

Peter did not intend for believers to face suffering passively, as if waiting for something dreadful to happen. With Christ's sufferings in mind, believers should arm themselves with the intention to suffer, much like soldiers take up arms in a military battle. The commitment to endure suffering is evidence that believers have broken with a life of

sin. Willingness to suffer reveals a yearning for a new way of life. As long as believers possess earthly life we are to spend it living for the will of God, not our fleshly desires. The list of sins that Peter mentions were common pagan practices of the first century, and they also tempt believers today. Believers are to follow courageously Christ's example of avoiding sin and pursuing God.

III. CONSIDER SUFFERING FOR CHRIST AS A PRIVILEGE (1 PE 4:12-16).

Peter reinforced to his readers the purpose of Christian suffering: to test and refine their faith. Suffering is not a sign of God's absence but of His purifying presence. With such an understanding, believers may face suffering with courage and rejoicing. Peter wisely confirmed that suffering was not to be because of one's sinfulness, but because of one's loyalty to Christ. Even if one's allegiance to Christ results in persecution, one will still be blessed by God. Contemporary Christians, like the believers to whom Peter wrote, are prone to sin, and Peter's exhortations provide encouragement for believers facing

suffering. Believers may bring glory to God by enduring suffering with joy, being pleased that their devotion to Christ sets them apart for such a divine purpose.

IV. TRUST GOD AND DO RIGHT (1 PE 4:19).

Believers who suffer according to God's will are those who share in Christ's sufferings, who are insulted in Christ's name, and who suffer as Christians rather than for doing evil (Schreiner 2003, 229). Christians should remember that all suffering first passes through the hands of our loving Creator, and nothing in life is beyond God's sovereign control. Believers can be confident that as sovereign Creator, God will not allow them to suffer beyond the capacity He will give them to endure. Such confidence comes from God's faithfulness to His promises.

When called to account for your faith in Christ, how will you respond? Believers can endure any hardship, knowing that God will never abandon them in their time of need.

Baker is BSU Director at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Removed from Privilege

2 Kings 23:36-25:30

By Mary Carraway

The historical books of the Old Testament were written not only to record history, but also to reveal and preserve spiritual lessons of timeless value. As we have seen in our study of 2 Kings, one of these lessons is that people's decisions and choices, whether good or bad, lead to inevitable consequences. With the untimely death of the reformer Josiah, Judah made a tragic choice and began its final march toward foreign dominance and deportation.

DESTINY ARRIVES (2 KINGS 23:1-4)

Josiah's middle son Jehoahaz succeeded him for three months before being deposed by Pharaoh Neco who made his brother Eliakim king and changed his name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim reflected

the true nature of the people. He and the people abandoned his father's reforms and returned to the evil practices of Manasseh.

The Babylonian empire under Nebuchadnezzar became the dominant power in the Near East by defeating the remnant of the Assyrian army at Carchemish. Jehoiakim at first submitted to Nebuchadnezzar, but then rebelled, probably by refusing to pay tribute. A series of destructive raids from some of Judah's long-time enemies was the beginning of the divine judgment to come on Judah as foretold by prophets such as Isaiah, Micah, and Jeremiah. The coming destruction of Judah was not ordained by the Babylonians, but by the Lord. Nebuchadnezzar was merely the tool that God used in his judgment against disobedient Judah. "This happened



Carraway

... at the Lord's command to remove them from His sight" (v. 3). God was understood to dwell in this land of promise; to be removed from his sight was to be separated from His presence. As harsh as this sounds, it does not mean that they had lost their

position as God's people. Like Israel, our fellowship with God is a privilege which we surely do not deserve. It must never be taken for granted or taken lightly. It must not be neglected, but nurtured through prayer, Bible study, and obedience to His Word. If we sacrifice our fellowship with God, we will not lose our relationship to Him; but we will lose the inestimable joy of His presence.

FELLOWSHIP DEPARTS (2 KINGS 24:20, 25:8-10, 21b)

At Jehoiakim's death, Jehoiachin, his son, became king. The mighty king of Babylon moved once again against the tiny kingdom of Judah. While Jerusalem was under siege, Jehoiachin and his family surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar. They,

along with more than ten thousand of Judah's elite citizens, artisans, and craftsmen were deported to Babylon. The Temple and palace were looted of the golden treasures of Solomon. Left behind were the poorest people of the land. Mattaniah, the third son of Josiah, was put on the throne with his name changed to Zedekiah. He did what was evil as his predecessors had done, and the Lord's anger finally reached the point that Jerusalem and Judah were banished from His presence. "Banished" is a strong verb which means "to hurl away."

When Zedekiah foolishly rebelled against the king of Babylon by making an alliance with Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar retaliated, advancing with his entire army against Jerusalem and laying siege to the city. Jerusalem was destroyed. The very last thing that Zedekiah saw before being blinded was the execution of his sons. The walls of the city were dismantled; the Temple, the palace, and the great houses were burned. Most of the population was deported and the leaders of Judah were executed. "So Judah went into exile" (v. 21).

HOPE REMAINS (2 KINGS 25:27-30)

The descendants of Jacob no longer dwelt in the land that God had promised them. The Temple of God was in ashes. Thankfully, the story does not end here. There is still hope for the people of Judah. In the thirty-seventh year of the exile, Evil-Merodach, king of Babylon, stopped treating King Jehoiachin like a criminal and gave him privileges befitting a king. This foreshadows the fact that the people of Judah could look to the future restoration of their nation, a return to Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the temple (2 Chronicles 36:23).

The encouraging ending to 2 Kings reveals again the Lord's mercy. Judgment of the family of God is always remedial, not punitive. Disobedience on the part of David's descendants resulted in chastisement, but did not negate God's covenant with David. There would be another king in Jerusalem, a king crowned with thorns.

Carraway is member of First Church, Wiggins.

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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THE BAPTIST
Record

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF

HURRICANE CHARLEY, FLORIDA • AUGUST 2004



MARCHING ORDERS — Donna Swarts (foreground), a member of Goodwater Church, Magee, discusses disaster relief details in Arcadia, Fla., with (from left) Mike Thorn, a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo; Mack Duck, a member of the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief Unit; and Barri Shirley, a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison, and associate executive director for resource services at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. Thorn and Shirley are members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit. Swarts' white cap signifies that she is the manager of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit for the Hurricane Charley response in Florida. (BR photo by Don Gann)

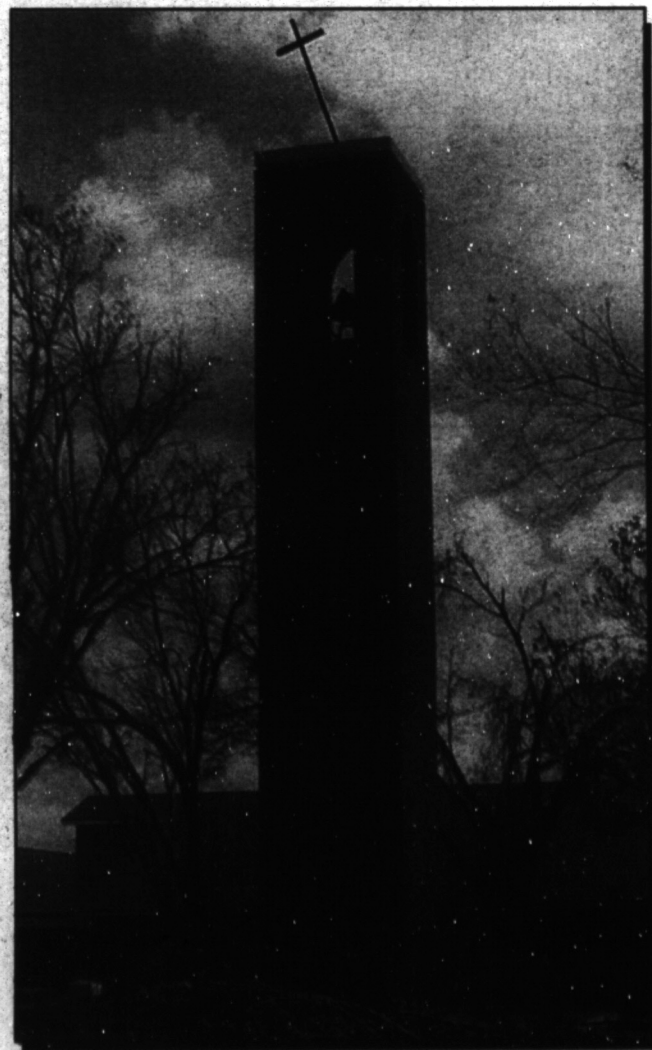


MASS FEEDING — Mike Thorn (right), a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and Bobby Kennedy, a member of Pearl Valley Church, Wesson, grill food for the 6,000 meals being prepared daily by the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit in Arcadia, Fla. The unit was activated and sent to Florida on August 14 in response to Hurricane Charley's devastating trek through the state. (BR photo by Don Gann)



FEEDING THE HUNGRY — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers Kaye Lee (left), White Springs Church, Rainbow City, Ala., Teresa Brooks (second from left) from First Church, Robertsdale living in Silver Hill, Ala., Alice Ewing (third from left), First Summerdale, Ala., and Donna Swarts, (right) Goodwater Church, Magee, help serve the community and volunteers lunch. They are among an estimated 750 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers now working in Florida providing mass feeding, cleanup, and shower services. Southern Baptists cook most of the food served by the American Red Cross. (Photo courtesy of NAMB)

BENT, NOT BROKEN — The cross tower at First Church, Arcadia, Fla., was blown off center by Hurricane Charley but managed to survive intact the Category 4 winds generated by the storm. The church is presently hosting the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit's mass feeding operation and Baptist volunteers from several other states conventions. (BR photo by Don Gann)



HOT DELIVERY — Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer Mike Thorn from Harrisburg Church of Tupelo, carries cambros with hot food that will be delivered by the American Red Cross. Behind him is Dixie Kennedy of Pearl Valley Church, Wesson, and Vernon Botler of Briar Hill Church, Florence. They are three of an estimated 750 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers now working in Florida providing mass feeding, cleanup, and shower services. (Photo courtesy of NAMB)